

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: PL-480 FUNDS FOR AIPS

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 7655; (B) STATE 172245; (C) ISLAMABAD

6408; (D) ISLAMABAD 5676; (E) ISLAMABAD 4260

(F) ISLAMABAD 9017; (G) SOBER TO ALLEN LTR DATED

OCTOBER 12, 1973

1. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PAKISTAN STUDIES (AIPS) WHICH WOULD
LEAD DEPARTMENT TO ALTER POSITION SET FORTH IN REF (B).

2. OUTLOOK NOT RPT NOT UNRELIEVEDLY BLEAK. THERE ARE
SIGNS OF NASCENT INTEREST ON PART AMERICAN ACADEMIC
INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT AIPS
FINANCIALLY FROM INSTITUTIONS HAVE TO DATE BEEN MARGINAL
AND THUS OUR POSITION MUST REMAIN, FOR THE MOMENT, UNCHANGED
AS DISCUSSED EARLIER, CU/NEA DOES NOT RULE OUT AIPS AS
MECHANISM FOR EXCHANGE.

3. THERE ARE POINTS WHICH REQUIRE CLARIFICATION SHOULD
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SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT A MEASURE OF US

SUPPORT TO AIPS IS WARRANTED. (A) WE DO NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER BINDING ON USG ASSERTION BY GOP (IN MAY 21 LETTER FROM GOP EDUCATION MINISTRY TO HAFEEZ MALIK) THAT IT EXPECTS US TO PROVIDE RS. 500,000; IF AND WHEN A DECISION IS TAKEN TO SUPPORT AIPS, USG WILL DETERMINE QUANTUM AND CHARACTER OF ITS SUPPORT. (B) WE CANNOT ACCEPT POSITION FUND TRAVEL COSTS OF PARTICIPANTS; THIS HAS PRACTICAL EFFECT ON LIMITING USE TO WHICH ANY US CONTRIBUTION MIGHT BE PUT, AND THIS UNACCEPTABLE, ESPECIALLY SINCE PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES WOULD BE MAIN BENEFICIARY EXPENDITURES ON TRAVEL. (C) WE TROUBLED THAT COMPOSITION AIPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS EQUALLY SHARED BETWEEN "PAKISTANIS" (I.E. PERSONS OF PAKISTANI ORIGIN) AND AMERICANS; WE THINK ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND PURPOSES OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE WOULD BE BETTER SERVED WITHOUT QUOTA SYSTEM. SOBER TO ALLEN LETTER OCT. 12 INDICATED GOP ALSO HAS RESERVATIONS RE COMPOSITION EXEC. COMMITTEE. WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THIS POINT.

4. AS YOU KNOW, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ANNOUNCED GOP CONTRIBUTION TO AIPS IN NEW YORK DURING VISIT. WE HAVE NOW HEARD THAT HE SIMULTANEOUSLY ANNOUNCED GRANT OF U.S. DOLS 15,000 TO SOMETHING CALLED PAKISTAN FOUNDATION WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, INTENDED STIMULATE INVESTMENT IN PAKISTAN AND PROMOTE OTHER PAKISTANI INTERESTS. BY COINCIDENCE, HAFEEZ MALIK, WHO PROMOTER OF AIPS IS ALSO DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION.

5. DR. RALPH BRAIBANTI, WHO PRESIDENT OF AIPS, WILL CALL AT DEPARTMENT WITH MALIK ON NOVEMBER 30 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF AIPS IN DETAIL. DATE AT HIS SUGGESTION AND WE BELIEVE DESIGNED TO FOLLOW AIPS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MID-NOVEMBER. IF THERE FURTHER COMMENTS WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES WOULD AID DEPARTMENT IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE ENSURE THEY REACH WASHINGTON IN TIME. KISSINGER

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